

**Human Right Commission  
February 22, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Marie Glaze, Glenn Glasgow, Randy Cole, Valeta Snell, Mark Thomas

**Members Excused:** Noel English

**Members Absent:** Lawrence Morganfield III

**Staff Present:** Steve Hollis, Nanette Ward, Fred Boeckmann, Shawna Victor

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Glaze called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Thomas and was approved unanimously.
- III. **Approval of 1/25/06 Meeting Minutes:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the January 25, 2006 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Thomas and was approved unanimously.

IV. **Old Business**

- A. **“Let’s Talk, Columbia! 2006” and Community Study Circles Program Report:**  
Ward said there has been a lot of activity with the Community Circles program in the last month. There were two Community Circles in January. One was the First Ward Dialogue. This event had a good turn out. There was an article in The Missourian about this event. Councilwoman Almeta Crayton would like to continue having a Community Circle event in the First Ward.

Many who attended this event also attended the Community Circle the following evening. This was a regular monthly Circle at the library. “Race – The Power of Illusion” was shown followed by a dialogue.

“Let’s Talk, Columbia! 2006” was a success. There was a very diverse group that attended. Approximately 50 people attended the weekend session. KOMU also did a story on this event. The group will be having a reunion March 3, 2006.

Other items and events: February 13, 2006, a Partners in Education appreciation at the Columbia Public School Board meeting; February 14, 2006, presentation related to diversity to Boone County Related Agencies Association; February 15, 2006, provided consultation to MU planners of Multicultural Weekend Seminar for 2007; and February 21, 2006, provided support to Multicultural Committee at Hickman High School showing of video “Mighty times, Legacy of Rosa Parks” to students

- B. **Fair Housing Implementation Committee:** There is no update at this time.
- C. **Commission Terms to Expire:** Cole and Snell both reapplied and were re-appointed for another three-year term.

Glaze noted elections will be held next month for officers and there will also be appointments to the budget committee.

V. **New Business**

- A. **Introduction by New Office of Community Services Manager, Steve Hollis:** Hollis introduced himself to the Commissioners. He believes the move of OCS to the Health Department will be a positive move for everyone concerned.

VI. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Community Services:** Hollis said he spoke with Steve Tatlow, Boone County Community Partnership, about Mrs. J's upcoming workshop for educators and people who work with youth on how to incorporate African American history into the education process.

Parkade Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will have their annual luncheon honoring their Black History Month Job Shadowing Program on February 28, 2006. This is a program HRC gives funding to.

- B. **Law Department:** Boeckmann had no reports. He noted he believes the move of Office of Community Services to the Health Department is a good move and will benefit many people.

- C. **Investigator/Community Educator:** Ward handed out a new historical list for the Commissioners. She showed everyone the article in the Columbia magazine about being diverse in Columbia and "Let's Talk, Columbia!" being a way to become more diverse. There is an article in this month's Columbia magazine about "Let's Talk, Columbia! 2006".

The department has received the following inquiries:

- Employment discrimination based on race against Summit Polymer. This was outside the city limits of Columbia.
- Two individuals called regarding a complaint they had against the Habitat Store. They believed they were treated differently because they had disabilities. No formal complaint was filed because staff talked with the store manager about the situation and the manager was open to making the appropriate improvements.
- A housing discrimination based on race.
- A former employee of MBS Textbook had a meeting with staff today. She is Bosnian. She had work related injuries and believes because she is Bosnian this is the reason she was fired. This is still being investigated by staff.

VII. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

VIII. **Commissioner Comment:** Snell noted she has new contact information. Victor will have the new roster with Snell's correct information and Snell and Cole's new Commission terms for the next packet.

Thomas suggested having an open dialogue with the Muslim community in Columbia. He is worried that the Muslim community may feel isolated. There was an editorial in the Columbia Daily Tribune about if Muslims in Columbia wanted to portray Islam as a peaceful religion then they should have peaceful protests like other peace activist in Columbia.

Cole suggested having a Community Circle with the Muslim community. Thomas will make some phone calls to see if anyone would like to participate.

Snell said Any Town will be for two weeks this summer, one session in June and one in August. It will be at the Rickman Center. The cost is \$825 per week or whatever can be paid. Hollis suggested checking into possible help from the Youth Enrichment Program at the Voluntary Action Center.

- IX. **Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1):** Thomas made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The motion was seconded by Snell and a roll call vote was taken. Cole called the roll with the following vote: Cole – Yes, Glasgow – Yes, Glaze – Yes, Snell – Yes, Thomas – Yes.

The Commission went back into open session.

- X. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager  
Office of Community Services